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Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 17504 081449Z

53
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
---------- 013874
R 081259Z NOV 76
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 762

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 17504

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR UR US
SUBJECT: BREZHNEV COMMENTS ON US-SOVIET RELATIONS

1. WHEN CHIEFS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS FILED PAST BREZHNEV AND POLITBURO MEMBERS FOR HANDSHAKE AT YESTERDAY'S KREMLIN RECEPTION, BREZHNEV DETAINED ME FOR FEW MOMENTS TO REMARK THAT HE AND ALL MEMBERS OF SOVIET LEADERSHIP HOPED THAT US-SOVIET RELATIONS COULD BE FURTHER IMPROVED AND ASKED ME TO CONVEY TO MY GOVERNMENT THAT THIS IS FIRM SOVIET ATTITUDE. I ASSURED HIM THAT U.S. LEADERS SHARE DESIRE FOR IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS. BREZHNEV THEN REMARKED THAT IF WE DO NOT ACHIEVE IMPROVEMENT, THIS WILL BE BAD NOT ONLY FOR OUR TWO COUNTRIES, BUT ALSO FOR ENTIRE WORLD.

2. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NOTHING UNUSUAL IN BREZHNEV'S REMARKS, IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT HE TOOK THE TROUBLE TO MAKE THEM IN A CONTEXT WHERE A HANDSHAKE AND PERFUNCTORY GREETINGS ARE THE NORM. (THE CHINESE CHARGE, WHO PRECEEDED ME IN LINE, WAS GIVEN THE SAME PERFUNCTORY TREATMENT AS THE OTHERE CHIEFS OF MISSION.)
MATLOCK

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Authority: CunninFX
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